the Ministry would also provide support for the preparation of material for training programmes that would necessarily follow Activity Mapping in States.

iv. Fact sheets furnished by States on Activity mapping and details of innovations and best practices will be disseminated on the National Panchayat Portal.

DG Hydrocarbons in ONGC Board

1470. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has not agreed to have the Director General of Hydrocarbons on its Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the final decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Director General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), who provides technical and regulatory assistance to the Government on upstream matters, was nominated by the Government as a Director on the Board of Directors of ONGC. However, ONGC objected to the nomination of the DGH on the ground of conflict of interest associated with DGH's functions relating to upstream companies. After considering all relevant factors, and in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice, the nomination of DGH to the Board of Directors of ONGC was withdrawn.

Private participation in strategic storage of Oil and Gas

1471. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan before Government to create strategic storage capacity for oil and gas;

(b) if so, what is the expected investment required;

(c) whether Government have any plan to take the help of private people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have approved the building of Strategic Crude Oil Reserves of 5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) at Mangalore (1.5 MMT), Vizag (1.0 MMT) and Mangalore or nearby location (2.5 MMT).

(b) The proposal involves a capital cost of Rs. 2,396.83 crore and a crude oil cost of about Rs. 8,870 crore (at US$ 55.00/barrel crude cost) with an estimated operation and maintenance cost of about Rs. 90 crore per annum after completion of the project.

(c) No, Sir. The storage is being planned as a sovereign critical strategic reserve entirely owned and financed by Government.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Crude oil production

†1472. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that present rate of production of crude oil from the crude oil reserves of the country is extremely slow;

(b) if so, the amount of crude oil estimated to be available in the crude oil reserves of the country till April, 2005.

(c) the targeted amount of crude oil production from these reserves for 2005-06; and

(d) the actual production likely to be made keeping in view the production made so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The reserve to production ratio (R/P) of crude oil in the country in 2004-05 is about 22 years. For different regions of the world, the R/P ratio varies from 81.6 years for West Asia to 11.6 years for North America. For Europe and Eurasia it is 21.6 years. In the Asia-Pacific region, the maximum duration reported is 20.4 years for Australia, with an average of 14.2 years for the entire region.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.